

75 years of Pakistan: dreams and realities

Outline

1 Introduction

Thesis statement: Undoubtedly Pakistan's founding dream was a tolerant, just and pluralistic society. Its 75 years reveal social inequalities, political instability, and economic shortcomings. However, overcoming these gaps requires addressing these hurdles to transform dreams into realities.

2 Overview of 75 years of Pakistan

3 Dreams of Pakistan

a) Tolerance, Peace and co-existence: the vision of Jinnah

b) Economically prosperous state

c) Constitutional governance with rule of law

d) High standards of living through human development

e) Gender inclusive society

4 Realities of Pakistan

a) Intolerance among different

ethnic and religious group

- b) Perpetual economic crisis
- c) Political instability and derailment of democracy
- d) Poor Socioeconomic development
- e) Significant gender gap has limited access to opportunities

5 Hurdles to convert dreams into realities

- a) Unequal access to resource has fueled extremism
- b) Inconsistent economic policies leads towards economic crisis
- c) Military intervention has weakened democratic institutions
- d) Budgetary constraint to meet standard living
- e) Patriarchal mindset hamper gender equality

6 Way forwards for the future

- a) Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Governance
- b) Investing in human capital development
- c) Fostering pluralistic & vision of founding fathers

7 d) Upgrading technological innovation,
Conclusion

On 14 August 2022, Pakistan as an independent state celebrated its third quarter of a century. Since its independence, all major freedom anniversaries have witness significant crisis. The 25th anniversary marked the process of healing from trauma of the separation of East Pakistan in 1971, ~~and~~ The 50th anniversary saw a nation on the brink of entering the nuclear age. The 75th anniversary is marked by unprecedented stress on the economy and key institutions. Indeed shortly after 1947, the nation evolved into a crisis-prone state, experiencing political and economic ~~and government~~ all crisis every three to four years. Now arises the questions, of how the nation that

was secure as havens for millions of people come to this point. Both the state it broke from are doing better. Why the same DNA didnot deliver into Pakistan's genes?

A nation's politics, economic and government all declined as a result of eroding ethics and values that form the foundation of that nation's culture. At its foundation

tolerance, peace and coexistence were the hallmark of Jinnah's vision for Pakistan. The dream was to create a pluralistic society that promotes the rule of law and achieves high standards of living in human development. But after Jinnah's death,

Pakistan drifted away from its dreams. The nation indulged in frequent changes of governments and military intervention that disrupted its long term policies. Un-

doubtedly Pakistan's founding dream was a tolerant, peace, just and pluralistic society. Its 75 years reveal social inequalities, political instability, and

— 1 — 5th Oct

economic shortcomings. However, overcoming this gap requires addressing these hurdles to transform dreams into realities.

As, Pakistan has been of 75 years now. It started with big dreams of being a fair, rich and peaceful country. The path from 1947 till now was a complete rollercoaster journey. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his iconic speech on August 11 1947 said, "The nation was born with dreams of prosperity, justice and tolerance for all." The nation has made strides in areas like education, infrastructure development, nuclear power plants, transportation network, indicating potential for future growth. However since its creation it also faced political instability, evident military rule and social inequalities. Thus, the nation^{is} still struggling to bridge the gap between its founding father's dreams and realities.

To begin with, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan's founding father, envisioned a nation built on tolerance, peace and coexistence. This means not only respecting the beliefs and of different faith but also encourage a layer of peace both internally and externally. The dream was a nation where Muslims celebrate Eid with joy alongside Hindus celebrating Diwali. Internal peace would ensure regardless of any religion or ethnic group, every citizen feels safe and secure. Externally, Jinnah hoped for peaceful ties with neighbouring countries, free from conflict and focused on mutual progress.

Secondly, One of Pakistan's dream was to become a self-reliant and economically prosperous state. It was aimed to establish a state where economy would flourish. The emphasis was particularly on industrialization, agriculture, trade and tax collection. For all this some

policies were also crafted to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and investment in key sectors. The dream also involved seeking partnership with other nations to facilitate economic cooperation and growth. Overall, the dream of Pakistan was grounded in belief that strong economy would uplift the state.

Additionally, the dream of Pakistan was to have constitutional governance with rule of law. It aimed for a just society where democracy and justice prevail.

This meant the constitution would be supreme law, ensuring everyone's rights. Independent institutions like judiciary, legislature and executive would function within their limits. ~~Account~~ where accountability and transparency were crucial, holding those in power responsible. Article 2 of Pakistan constitution affirms the supremacy of the constitution. This underscores the importance of adherence to the

constitutional principles in governance.

P Furthermore, the dream of Pakistan was to achieve a high standard of living through human development. This dream emphasized the importance of ~~basic~~ improving the well being and quality of life for all. It is by providing access to education, healthcare and basic amenities. Constitutional reference such as **Article 25(A) of constitution** guarantees the right to free and compulsory education for all children between the age of 5 to 16 years.

The dream also include National Health Policy and Education Policy. Overall, the motive was to create a society where ~~one~~ everyone enjoy high standard of living.

Similarly, The creation of a gender inclusive society has been a pivotal dream for Pakistan. This dream envisions a society where all citizens, regardless of gender. Everyone will have equal

Rights, opportunities and representation. A crucial aspect of this dream is to have ~~to~~ ensuring gender equality. For example, Pakistan's constitution guarantees equal rights for men and women, including the right to vote and stand for election. The dream also involve combatting gender discrimination through legislative measures. Hence, the dream of Pakistan is to create a society where gender equality is not a barrier.

However, Intolerance among different ethnic and religious groups is a stark reality in Pakistan. This reality is fueled with deep-seated ~~prejudice~~ prejudices, historical grievance, and sociopolitical tension. For example, the rise of extremist groups and incidents of sectarian violence underscore the magnitude of the issues. Such incident perpetuate fear and division among communities and intensify group intergroup tensions.

In the same way, The perpetual economic crisis is a harsh reality of Pakistan. Initially Pakistan's economy showed promising growth. It also reached at 6% of GDP growth rate. However inconsistent economic policies has persisted over period of time, that derailed Pakistan economy into macro and micro economic issues. Such as: unemployment, Inflation, Budget deficits, balance of payment, market failure and others. Today, Pakistan relies heavily on foreign loans from IMF to bridge gap. It creates a cycle of debt where significant portion of nation income is used in debt servicing. Not only this the continues depreciation of rupee against dollar has also made imports more expensive.

Moving along, The dream of a ~~Pakistan~~ stable and democratic Pakistan faces a harsh reality. Political instability that derail democratic

processes. This constant change in leadership hinders long term planning and weakens public trust in government institutions. The derailment of democracy in Pakistan can be traced from early years. Where politicians or failed to establish a stable democratic system. For example the ousting of 2018 government in 2022 following vote of no confidence highlights the fragility of Pakistan's political landscape and frequent turnover of leadership. As a result, nation is still battling the effect of political instability.

Along with this, another harsh reality of Pakistan is its poor socioeconomic development. The nation tussle with stark disparities in hunger, poverty and vulnerability to natural disasters. This uneven development creates a society where significant portion struggle to meet basic needs. According to world Bank, nearly 40% of Pakistan's population or about

95 million people live below poverty line, of \$3.65 per day, with million more pushed into poverty by devastating 2022 floods. The distribution of resources are not shared properly. There is no plan for disasters. The response of government to the flood affectees was not good enough. Hence, showing the socio economic development of Pakistan is not where it should be.

Besides, significant gender gap in Pakistan has created barriers that limit access to opportunities for women. It reflects a harsh reality for women faced by the nation. This gap is evident in various aspects of life including, education, employment and participation in decision making. According to the World Economic Forum Global Gender Report 2023, Pakistan ranks 142 out of 145. However it was on 145 rank in 2021. and now ^{has} improved 5.1% but still this ranking highlights the stark disparities between men and women in Pakistan.

Nevertheless, Pakistan strives to achieve its dreams into realities. But there ^{are} ~~are~~ greatest challenges to convert its dreams into realities. One of the hurdle is unequal distribution of resources. As it fuels extremism in Pakistan. The inequality create inferiority complex among some groups. It provides fertile ground for extremist ideologies to take root. A recent example is the case of Balochistan, where Baloch separatist groups claim the government exploits their resources while neglecting Baloch people. In result extremist group exploit these grievances to recruit disaffected individual and perpetuate violence and instability.

Next, inconsistent economic policies also pose a significant hurdle in turning dream into realities. ~~Particularly~~ ~~leading to economic crisis in Pakistan.~~
 This is when government changes, so do their economic policies, causing uncertainty and instability. For example, the

_ / _ / 20

government of 2018 introduced subsidies to reduce poverty, but the government in 2022 remove them. This cause disruptions in the economy. Additionally, 50% of economic activity in Pakistan are undocumented which undermines efforts to implement effective economic policies. Hence, one major hurdle to achieve dreams is inconsistent economic policies.

In line manner, since early years of independence, Pakistan has faced military intervention. It has created significant hurdle to achieve its dreams. Military involvement and martial laws in politics has repeatedly disrupted the democratic process. ~~under~~ It also undermine civilian rule and erode democratic institutions. For example the military coups in year 1958, 1977 and 1999 lead to the suspension of constitution and weakened democratic governance. Hence, this pattern of military interference continues to

hinder Pakistan's progress towards achieving dreams.

Likewise, Budgetary constraint present a significant hurdle in journey converting dreams into realities. This is because available financial resources are often fall short to meet standard living. For example, developed nation allocate 5-6% of their GDP to education whereas according to UNESCO Pakistan ~~share~~ allocate only around 2-3% which is comparatively low.

These disparities in budget allocation limits investment in crucial areas like education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Thus, budgetary constraint serves as formidable barrier in pursuing dreams into realities.

Adding more in this, the patriarchal mindset is a major barrier to achieve gender equality. Due to this the dream of gender inclusive society is suffering. This mindset is deeply rooted in society, it hold back women

from accessing education, pursuing careers and participating in gender decision making. For example, in Pakistan, cultural norms often limits women's ~~from~~ opportunity solely because of their gender. This discrimination prevents women from reaching their full potential and hold back the country's progress.

Hence, the patriarchal mindset stands as a hurdle to achieve gender equality and transforming dreams into realities.

Moving forward, It is crucial to promote transparency and accountability in governance. It is because it will ensure the trust between the government and people. By checking that decision making processes are open and fair. When citizens have access to information about government they feel more empowered. It also help to reduce corruption. And, by combating corruption, transparency and accountability

free up the space that will can be used for the development of the nation. Hence, promoting these principles in governance will set a pathway for bright future for Pakistan.

Looking ahead, Investing in human capital ~~will~~ lays the foundation for brighter future for Pakistan. Investing in people's education, health and skills is key will increase the productivity and innovation for the nation. For instance, the Benazir Income Support Program and Ahsas Program are providing financial assistance to low income families. Such program enable poor families to invest in their children's education and health care. Thus, investment in human capital is not just an investment in an individual but also in the future prosperity of Pakistan as whole.

Moving ahead, Fostering pluralistic vision of Pakistan's founder is essential

for shaping harmonious future. It was
envision as a country where people of all reli-
gions and groups could co-exist peacefully.
Supporting his vision involves promoting
tolerance, respect, peace. For example
initiatives like interfaith dialogue
forums and cultural exchange programs
can bridge the gap of divides. By doing
so Pakistan can realize its potential as
a vibrant and pluralistic society.
Last but not the least, Pakistan

should upgrade technological innovation for
rapid evolving ^{digital} landscape. As the world is
increasingly shifts towards digitalization.
It will boost economic growth and

Societal progress of Pakistan. For instance,
advancement in agriculture technology can
help Pakistan's farmers optimizes water
usage, improve crop yields and connect
directly with consumers. Additionally,
e-governance initiatives like online
permit application and grievance redressal

platforms can streamline processes and improve accessibility. It will also create transparent and accountable government. Overall, by keeping pace with digital trends, Pakistan can unlock new opportunities for growth in the digital age.

In conclusion, Pakistan's 75

year journey has been a complex interplay between dream and realities. The dreams of political stability, socio-economic development and gender inclusive society are challenged by unequal resource distribution, misuse of power, and budgetary constraints.

However, these dreams can be turned into realities by investing in human capital, upgrading technological innovation, fostering pluralistic society and transparency and accountability in every sector. The country is full of potential, with a thriving

